

# NEWS RELEASE

LINCOLN FIRE DEPARTMENT  
1801 'Q' STREET  
LINCOLN, NE 68508

DATE: Jan. 6, 2000  
CONTACT: MIKE SPADT  
441-8350

---

---

## LINCOLN FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES "FIRE CHIEF CONCERNED WITH FIRE SAFETY AWARENESS"

Lincoln Fire Chief Michael Spadt today announced that Lincoln did not lose any lives to fire last year, but the dollar loss from fires increased 196 percent from 1998 to 1999. "It is always the Fire Department's goal to have no fire deaths, and we are very pleased with that statistic," Spadt said. "But it is also a goal to keep property damage to a minimum, and that remains a concern."

Reasons why dollar loss is up....big fires....

Spadt said the Fire Department provides the community with a very extensive public education campaign about fire safety and how the fire department functions. He asked for the community's help in keeping loss down.

"Many of our recent fires are a result of carelessness," he said.

"By practicing fire prevention, having a working smoke detector, knowing your escape routes, and practicing good fire safety, we as a community can save lives and reduce the losses from fire."

Lincoln Fire Department Education Programs are available by calling 441-8363.

Year	Total # Fires	Total of Dollar Loss	FF injuries	Civilian injuries	Civilian Fire deaths
1999	649	\$7,741,607	28	19	0
1998	509	\$2,613,519	20	19	4
1997	589	\$3,904,280	14	21	0
1996	690	\$3,645,963	19	6	2
1995	754	\$9,130,926	19	13	1